STANDARD CONSERVATION FARM PLAN CHECKLIST
SUBMITTAL FORM

Ongoing agriculture activities are permitted within critical areas, and/or their buffers upon implementation of an approved conservation farm plan in accordance with WCC 16.16 Article 8. The goal of this plan is to protect critical areas from the potential impacts of livestock where the animal density is less than or equal to one animal unit per acre. (AU/Ac).

Name of Farm: Hippogriff Farm
Land Owner: Rubeus Hagrid
Physical Address: 3 Hogwarts Ct
APN#: 380000000000
City/Zip Code: Bellingham, WA 98226
Mailing Address: same
City/State/Zip Code: same
Phone: (555) 555-5555 Email: hagrid@hogwarts.org

Person Responsible: Rubeus Hagrid Title: owner

Total Farm Acreage: 5 Animal Units per Acre (AU/Ac): 0.63

I understand that this application does not grant authorization to begin work and does not imply approval of the submitted Farm Plan. Furthermore, no work will begin until a permit/authorization is issued. The information contained in the Worksheets, Site Map and Submittal Form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Rubeus Hagrid Date: 8-31-18

For agency use:

This plan was developed in cooperation with ☐ Consultant _____ ☐ Conservation District

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This plan was approved by the PDS Staff:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WHATCOM COUNTY STANDARD CONSERVATION FARM PLAN

PLANNING WORKBOOK: Checklist and Action Plan

For use with the publication:

Tips on Land and Water Management

For: Hippogriff Farm; Rubeus Hagrid
Land Owner
same
Operator

3 Hogwarts Ct, Bellingham, WA 98226
Address
August 31, 2018
Date

Introduction

Conservation planning means different things to different people. Yet at its heart it is providing guidance to landowners to foster a healthy relationship between the environment and people. Our challenge is to help the hundreds of Whatcom County landowners protect certain areas of their community's critical areas, such as Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, Wetlands, Frequently Flooded Areas, and Habitat Conservation Areas (e.g. streams, ponds and lakes). This conservation planning guidance empowers the individual by giving them the opportunity to understand the potential impacts of their agricultural activities and adopt best management practices that will harmonize their farm with the environment. We thank you for your anticipated responsible stewardship.

Overview of Standard Conservation Farm Plan Process

Ongoing agriculture activities are permitted within critical areas, and/or their buffers upon design and implementation of an approved Conservation Farm Plan in accordance with the Whatcom County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). The goal of the Standard Conservation Farm Planning (SCFP) process is to protect certain critical areas and their associated buffers from the potential impacts of farming related activities through a simplified planning process.

Regulated critical areas include:

1) Geologically Hazardous Areas
2) Frequently Flooded Areas
3) Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
4) Wetlands
5) Habitat Conservation Areas (including streams, rivers, ponds and lakes).

The scope of this guidance document is to address the protection of critical areas that contain open water, have saturated soils and/or areas that provide recharge to shallow aquifers. Aquifer recharge areas, streams, ditches, lakes, ponds and wetlands are the relevant regulated critical areas for CPAL. The following regulations are in place for these critical areas. Flexibility from these standards may be afforded through the farm plan process. Standard buffers for regulated critical areas are:

Wetlands: 25 – 300 ft depending on function, value and use.
Non-fish bearing streams: 50 ft.
Fish-bearing streams: 100 ft.
Shoreline Streams: 150 ft.
Lakes: 100 ft.
Ponds: 50 ft.
Marine Shorelines: 150 ft.

Requirements for Standard Conservation Farm Plans (SCFP) are described in the CAO at WCC 16.16 Article 8. The plan includes basic information about the agricultural activities on the farm, a map of the property, a standard checklist designed to protect critical areas and water quality, and an action plan describing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented to protect critical areas. Completing this workbook will create a conservation farm plan that meets the requirements of the CAO. Under State and Federal law, you must also protect against untreated water leaving your property, if it has been polluted by your agricultural activities.

STEP 1: DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR STANDARD CONSERVATION FARM PLAN

If you have livestock on property in Whatcom County, Step 1 will help you determine if this workbook is the proper pathway to ensure that your farm meets the requirements of Whatcom County's CAO (WCC 16.16).

1. Determine if your ongoing agricultural activities are within the boundary of a critical area. Maps identifying the general location and distribution of critical areas are available from Whatcom County PDS (360) 778-5900. These maps provide a general idea of if and where critical areas exist on your property. A site inspection by the Technical Administrator may be required to verify the actual presence and location of critical areas on your property. **Standard buffer widths will need to be determined by the technical administrator.** Contact PDS to assist in determining if critical areas occur on your property. You can view the maps online at: http://www.whatcomcounty.us/811/County-Wide-Critical-Area-Ordinance-Maps.

   ☐ WCPDS has determined that there are no critical areas or their buffers on my farm and no water polluted by my agricultural activities is discharged to surface or groundwater. **Stop here, you do not need a conservation farm plan.**

2. Determine whether you may use Conservation Program on Agricultural Lands (CPAL). Only "ongoing agricultural" activities may make use of CPAL. Ongoing agricultural activities are typically associated with the production of crops and livestock. They do not include those activities that bring an area into agricultural use or are developed for use other than agriculture. Lands that have lain idle for over five years are not eligible. However, land enrolled in a Federal or State conservation program is considered ongoing agriculture.

   ☒ Agricultural activities presently occur and have occurred on my farm during the past five years. Continue on with this planning process.

3. Determine if you are a Type 1 Agricultural Operation.
   1) Liquid manure application:
   Utilizing liquid manure as a fertilizer is an agricultural activity that presents greater challenges to management and planning because pollution to surface or groundwater can easily occur. If you are applying liquid manure, the SCFP is not adequate to bring your operation into compliance with the County's CAO. The Custom Conservation Farm Planning process is the proper path for CAO compliance if you want to use liquid manure as fertilizer.

   ☒ I do not capture, hold and apply liquid manure as a fertilizer on my farm. Continue on with the SCFP planning process.

   2) Number of animal units per acre:
   Low impact operations cannot average more than one animal unit per one grazable acre (AU/Ac). Grazable acres include both pasture and hayland. The following worksheet will help you in determining your AU/Ac.

Question 1: How many Animal Units do I have on my farm?

TABLE 1 – AU Calculation

Livestock	A AU Factor		B Number of Animals		C Total AU
Dairy – Holstein cow	1.3	X		=	
Dairy – Heifer, bred	1	X		=	
Dairy – Heifer, prebred	.4	X		=	
Beef (cow & calf)	1.2	X		=	
Beef - Feeder	.7	X		=	
Horse - (mature 1,200 lbs.)	1.2	X	1	=	1.2
Horse - other: AU factor = lb. body weight /1000		X		=	
Swine - Sow	.5	X		=	
Swine - Grower	.2	X		=	
Sheep (ewe & lamb)	.2	X		=	
Goat	.2		3		0.6
Llama	.3	X		=	
Duck	.015	X		=	
Layer	.01	X	10	=	0.1
Fryer	.007	X		=	
Total Animal Units (AU) for Farm:					1.9

NOTE: One acre equals 43,560 square feet.

TABLE 2 - Converting square feet to Acres

217,800 sq feet	÷	43,560 sq feet per acre	=	5 Acres

Question 2: How many grazable acres do I have on my farm?

TABLE 3 – Grazable Acres Calculation

Total Property Acres	5.0	Categories
minus	0.1	**Buildings**
minus	0.1	Roads
minus		Other impervious surfaces
minus		Wetlands
minus		Streams & ditches
minus	0.1	Cropland (where no manure applied)
minus	1.7	Woodlands
Total Grazable Acres(Ac):	3.0	

Question 3: How many Animal Units per Grazable Acre (AU/Ac) do I have?

TABLE 4 – AU/Ac Calculation

Total Animal Units *(Table 1)*	÷	**Grazable Acres** (*Table 2*)	=	**Animal Units per Grazable Acre**
1.9	÷	**2.7**	=	0.63

STEP 2: CONSERVATION FARM PLAN MAP

A map is an important tool to help you develop an effective conservation farm plan. It starts with inventorying what you have and recording that information. It's your chance to get an overall picture of what is happening on your property and how land uses may affect critical areas on or near your property. You will use this map and knowledge of your farm to work through a series of questions that will help you evaluate your operation, identify potential risks to critical areas, and determine which BMPs are appropriate to ensure that critical areas are protected against the potential impacts of your ongoing agricultural activities.

Inventory What You Have

Be sure to identify an approximate scale (map distance to distance on ground, e.g. one inch to 100 feet) and a north arrow. Figure out what the length of your stride is and pace off some distances. Consult online county assessor property maps or property purchase documents to help you determine lot dimensions. In your sketch, note approximate locations of:

- Property boundaries
- Buildings
- Wells (human, stock, and irrigation)
- Septic system and drain field
- Fences and confinement areas
- Filter strips
- Drains
- Bare ground
- Lawn, pasture, or crop land
- Woodlands
- Neighboring land uses
- Flat or sloped ground
- Roads
- Critical areas and associated buffers

Note that critical areas on neighboring parcels and their associated buffers may extend onto your property. These areas should be shown on your map as well. Please contact the WCPDS technical administrator for more information on the occurrence and distribution of critical areas on your property. By locating the components listed above, you will have a base map upon which to record locations of BMPs that you will determine are necessary, based on your Farm Review Worksheets (Step 3).

STEP 3: FARM REVIEW WORKSHEETS

Now that you have developed a base map of your farm in Step 2, you can use the map and knowledge of your farm to work through a series of questions that will help you evaluate your operation, identify potential risks to critical areas, and determine which BMPs are appropriate to ensure that critical areas are protected from the potential impacts of your agricultural activities.

Questions in the Worksheets are grouped into eight topic areas. The page numbers at the beginning of each topic area refers to the page numbers in the *Tips on Livestock Management for Whatcom County Farms*, available through Whatcom County Planning and Development Services and the Whatcom Conservation District, where more information can be found. You should record an answer to all questions with a yes, no or n/a (not applicable). Check "yes" only if all areas on your farm meet the question; check "no" if all areas do not meet the question; check "n/a" if the question does not apply to your farm. **Farm Review Worksheets are only considered complete when you have answered all of the questions with either a "Yes", "No", or "N/A" response.**

STEP 4: ACTION PLAN

Once you have answered the questions, fill out the Action Plan form at the end of the questions for all questions for which you answered “no”. Indicate, in the space provided, what BMP you plan to implement and the date by which it will be implemented. Refer to the timeframe indicated for each question. Submission of the worksheets, action plan, site map and submittal form constitutes a complete Farm Plan application which will then be reviewed for approval by the WCPDS Technical Administrator.

CHECKLIST

SYSTEM SITING AND MANAGEMENT

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FARM BUILDINGS

1) Are all existing barns and impervious surfaces sited to prevent manure, pathogens, sediment and other contaminants from entering all rivers, streams, ditches, ponds, lakes and associated wetlands?
   Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
   If No, practice(s) to correct on-going pollution discharges should be installed immediately and structural practice(s) should be installed prior to fall rains but no later than October 1st.
2) Is roof runoff managed so that it does not result in ponding and/or channeling **in confinement areas**, and/or contribute to the discharge of nutrients, sediment, pathogens and other contaminants to streams and ditches?
   Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐
   If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed prior to the next wet season but no later than October 1st.

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LIVESTOCK CONFINEMENT AREAS

3) Is surface runoff from outside of livestock confinement areas (areas such as fields, hillsides, driveways and roads) managed so that it does not result in ponding and/or channeling and/or contribute to the discharge of nutrients, sediment, pathogens and other contaminants to streams and ditches?
   Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐
   If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed prior to the next wet season but no later than October 1st.
4) Is there an approved BMP **or** a permanent strip of grass that is at least the width of the livestock confinement area, but not less than 50 feet established between the livestock confinement area and all rivers, streams, ditches, ponds, lakes and associated wetlands?
   Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
   If no, practices(s) to correct this problem should begin immediately by excluding livestock from the area where the filter strip will be established. The filter strip should be planted, if necessary, as soon as growing conditions are appropriate. All practices should be installed prior to the next wet season and no later than October 1st.
5) Are all catch basins, drains, tiles, pipes and other conveyances of surface and ground water that outlet to streams and ditches installed in a manner that prevents the entry of manure, pathogens, sediment and other contaminants?
   Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
   If no, practice to correct this problem should be installed immediately.
6) Is the entire livestock confinement area managed to prevent manure, pathogens, sediment and other contaminants from entering any stream or ditch?
   Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐
   If no, practice to correct this problem should be installed immediately.

MANURE COLLECTION, STORAGE & USE

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MANURE STORAGE

7) Is manure storage capacity sufficient to store manure and other wastes until they can be safely spread as fertilizer?

   Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

   If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed prior to the next wet season but no later than October 1st.

8) Is manure stored at least 100 feet from all wells, rivers, streams, ditches, ponds, lakes and associated wetlands?

   Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

   If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed prior to the next wet season but no later than October 1st.

9) Are outdoor manure piles completely covered from Oct 1st to April 1st?

   Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

   If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed immediately.

10) Is manure handled and stored in a way that prevents nutrients, pathogens, sediment and other contaminants from entering streams and ditches?

    Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

    If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed immediately.

FIELD APPLICATION OF SOLID MANURE

11) Is manure applied in a manner and is application timed to prevent pollution of streams and ditches and/or groundwater? Are the following practices observed?

    - No applications when soils are saturated.
    - No applications that exceed crop nutrient requirements.
    - No applications when fields are frozen and/or snow covered.
    - No applications October 1st – March 15th on fields subject to flooding.
    - No applications within 100 feet of streams and ditches Sept 1st through March 15th.
    - No applications within 25 feet of streams and ditches March 15h through Sept 1st, and then only if a buffer strip is present.

    Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

    If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed immediately.

12) Is manure applied in a manner and is application timed to prevent pollution of streams and ditches and/or groundwater?

    Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

    If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed immediately.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

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SEASONAL FEEDING AREAS

13) Is all feeding (whether placed on the ground or in feed bunks, hay rings etc.) done at least 100 feet from rivers, streams, ditches, ponds, lakes and associated wetlands?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed immediately.

14) Are 100 foot wide buffer strips established and maintained between seasonal feeding areas (include calving areas) and streams and ditches from Oct 1st - March 30th?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should begin immediately by excluding livestock from the area where the filter strip will be established. The filter strip should be planted, if necessary, as soon as growing conditions are appropriate (questions 23-25 describe minimum requirements for plant growth and management in filter strips), and should be established no later than the next wet season or October 1st.

15) Is manure in seasonal feeding areas distributed over the site such that no area receives more manure nutrients than the fertilizer needs of the next year's crop?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed immediately.

PASTURE AND HAYLAND AREAS

16) Are livestock managed in a way that prevents trampling of river, stream, pond and lake banks and bottoms and associated wetlands?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be installed immediately.

17) Are 50 foot wide buffer strips established and maintained along all streams and ditches crossing through and/or adjacent to pastures and haylands?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should begin immediately by excluding livestock from the area where the filter strip will be established. The filter strip should be planted, if necessary, as soon as growing conditions are appropriate (questions 18-20 describe minimum requirements for plant growth and management in filter strips), and should be established no later than the next wet season or October 1st.

18) Is the minimum forage height within the 50 foot wide buffer strip at least 3 inches in height from October 1st through March 15th?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should begin immediately by excluding livestock from the area where the filter strip will be established. The filter strip should be planted, if necessary, as soon as growing conditions are appropriate (questions 18-20 describe minimum requirements for plant growth and management in filter strips), and should be established no later than the next wet season or October 1st.

19) Are pastures managed so that after most forage has been grazed, they have time to grow to a height of 4 to 6 inches before they are grazed/harvested again?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied over the next 2 years.

20) Are pastures and haylands mostly covered (at least 75%) with suitable forages for grazing livestock? Yes

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied over the next 2 years.

21) Does your property contain grass-lined swales and depressions that lack a defined channel or bed, but that also carry seasonal runoff water to interconnecting ditches and streams? If yes, are livestock only pastured in the swales and depressions from the point in the spring when water no longer runs through them until September 30th?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

22) In pastures, are all gates, access roads and lanes, watering facilities, supplemental feeding and other heavy use areas located to prevent nutrients, pathogens, sediment and other contaminants from entering streams and ditches?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

RIPARIAN & WETLAND AREAS

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RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT

23) Are livestock excluded from rivers, streams, ditches, ponds and lakes (except as provided in next question)?
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

24) Are instream crossings for livestock and machinery constructed and managed to prevent and control sediment and manure discharge to the watercourse?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

25) Is existing native woody vegetation growing within critical area buffers of streams and ditches protected from damage caused by livestock or human related activity?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

26) Are the banks of watercourse free from damage that results in exposed soil or bank slumping resulting from recreational use, farm equipment, or hoof action of livestock?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

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WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

27) Are livestock excluded from wetlands that **directly connect** to rivers, streams, ditches, ponds and lakes, and are nutrients, pathogens, sediment and other contaminants prevented from entering them? (Note: This requirement may be relaxed if an approved SCFP is developed and implemented as described in WCC16.16 Article 8)
Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐
If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

28) Are livestock excluded from wetlands that are **isolated** from rivers, streams, ditches, ponds and lakes, and are nutrients, pathogens, sediment and other contaminants prevented from entering them? (Note: This requirement may be relaxed if an approved SCFP is developed and implemented as described in WCC16.16 Article 8)
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

29) Are the functions of wetlands maintained by not filling, draining, grading or clearing them and by not introducing nutrients, pathogens, sediment and other contaminants?
Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐
If No, practice(s) to correct this problem should be applied immediately.

ACTION PLAN

FOR THOSE QUESTIONS WITH A **"NO",** INDICATE
ON THE LINES BELOW WHICH QUESTION IS
BEING ADDRESSED AND HOW YOU ARE ADDRESSING IT.

Name:		**Address:**	

QUESTION # and explanation of problem to be addressed	**PROPOSED PRACTICE TO ADDRESS PROBLEM**	**Due Date for Implementation of Practice**
#2 & 6 Roof runoff from barn ponds in Heavy Use Area and flows to swale	Install gutters and downspout on barn to direct roof runoff away from Heavy Use Area.	October 1
#3, 16, 17, 21, 27, & 29 Livestock have access to wetland and swale year round.	Install fence 50 ft back from wetland and swale to create two pastures, Field 1 being the upland and Field 2 being the wetland. Exclude livestock from Field 2 when saturated, from October through March each year.	October 1
#18 & 19 Livestock graze vegetation below 3 inches in some areas.	Use rotational grazing between Fields 1 & 2 and do not graze vegetation below 3 inches. Utilize Heavy Use Area during winter months.	October 1

CURRENT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

FOR THOSE QUESTIONS WITH A **"YES",** INDICATE
ON THE LINES BELOW WHICH QUESTION IS
BEING ADDRESSED AND HOW YOU ARE ADDRESSING IT.

QUESTION # and explanation of problem to be addressed	CURRENT PRACTICE
#1 Siting of impervious surfaces	Barn and impervious surfaces are located in upland.
#7-12 Manure storage and application	Manure is collected during winter months, when livestock are kept in barn and Heavy Use Area. Manure is kept in covered storage north of the barn and later applied to garden.
#13-15 Seasonal feeding area	Seasonal feeding area is located in barn/Heavy Use Area, which is in upland, 100 ft from wetland and swale.

HIPPOGRIFF FARM PLAN MAP